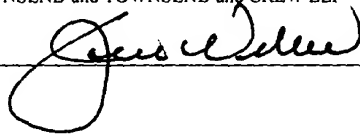


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this date: December 20, 2001

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

By: \_\_\_\_\_



PATENT

Attorney Docket No. 81992

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of:

MICHAEL BOTHE, ET AL.

Application No. 09/180,699

Filed: November 13, 1998

For: APPARATUS FOR PROTECTING  
ELECTRONIC CIRCUITRY

Examiner: [unknown]

Art Unit: [unknown]

SUBSTITUTE  
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

San Francisco, CA 94111  
December 20, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please exchange this Substitute Preliminary Amendment for the Preliminary Amendment filed with this application.

Simultaneously with the filing of this application, please amend it as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please substitute the following new paragraphs in the specification (a marked-up version of the changes to the specification is attached to this Amendment):

*Page 1, paragraph beginning at line 6:*

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a device for protecting electronic circuitry and/or an attached electric appliance or device against unacceptably high electric energy pulses.--